THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (SHRI SAHIB SINGH VERMA): (a) to (c) During the year 2000-2001 out of the total Provident Fund default of Rs. 1981.07 crore, an amount of Rs. 796.97 crore was collected by EPFO, leaving outstanding arrears of Rs. 1184.10 crore, as on 31.03.2001.

During the year 2001-02 of the total Provident Fund default of Rs. 2194.77 crore an amount of Rs. 858.53 crore was collected leaving outstanding arrears of Rs. 1336.24 crore as on 31.03.2002.

Of the above arrears, Rs. 1033.22 crore is not currently realizable being cases where stays by the Court exist or the establishments are registered with the Board for Industrial and Financial Reconstruction or are under liquidation. Whenever any default is detected, action as per provisions of the Act is taken against defaulters.

STD Facility on VPT Connections

†*370. SHRI D.P. YADAV: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any provision for not providing STD facility on VPT connections;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is also a fact that officers of some of the districts are providing STD facility on VPTs (WLL) connections while some other officers refuse to do so when requested by villagers; and

(d) if so, the justification therefor?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN): (a) and (b) Sir, instructions have already been issued to all the telecom circles to provide STD facility on VPTs, as and when demanded subject to technical limitation.

(c) and (d) STD facility on VPTs (WLL technology based) is provided on demand without any discrimination subject to completion of other commercial formalities.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.